THE FLASH

8

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PÉREZ
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DODGSON

13+ TEEN

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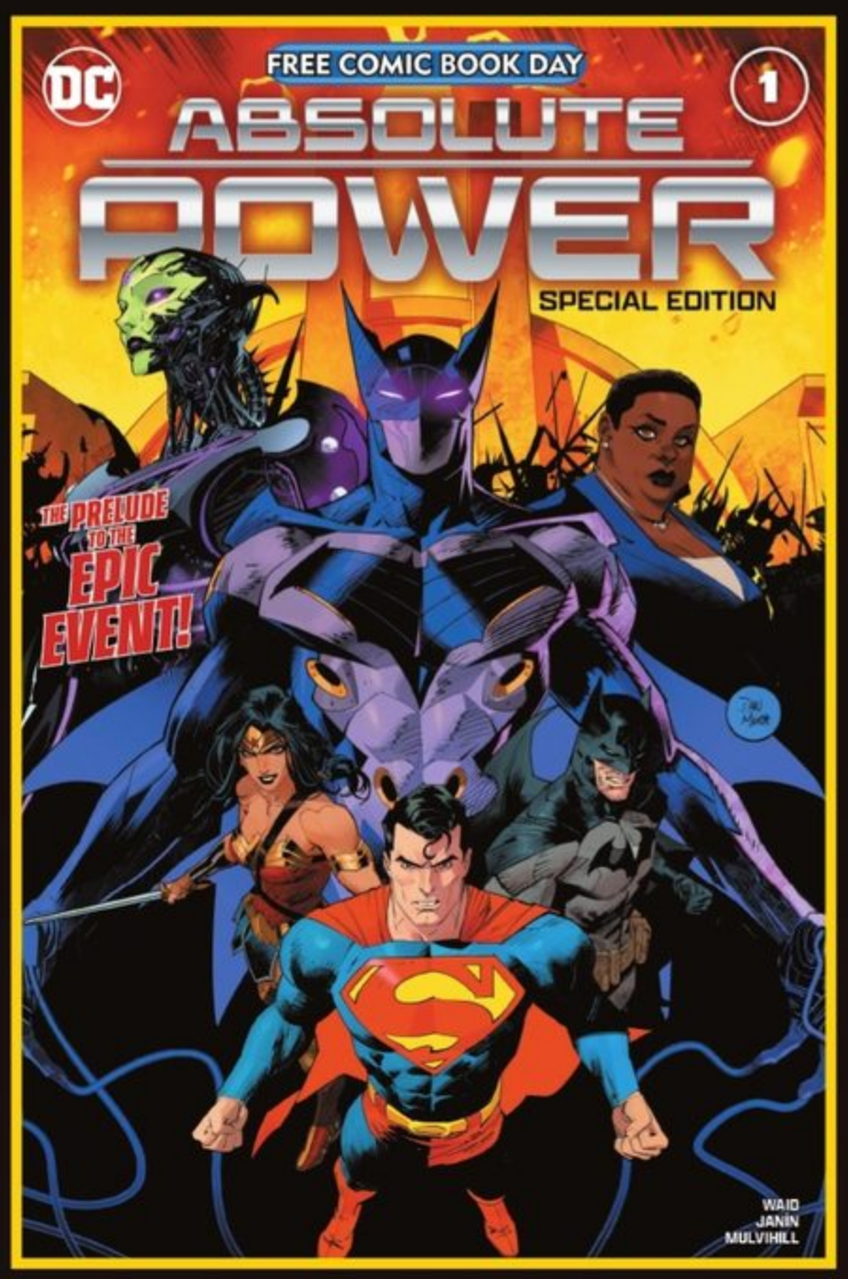

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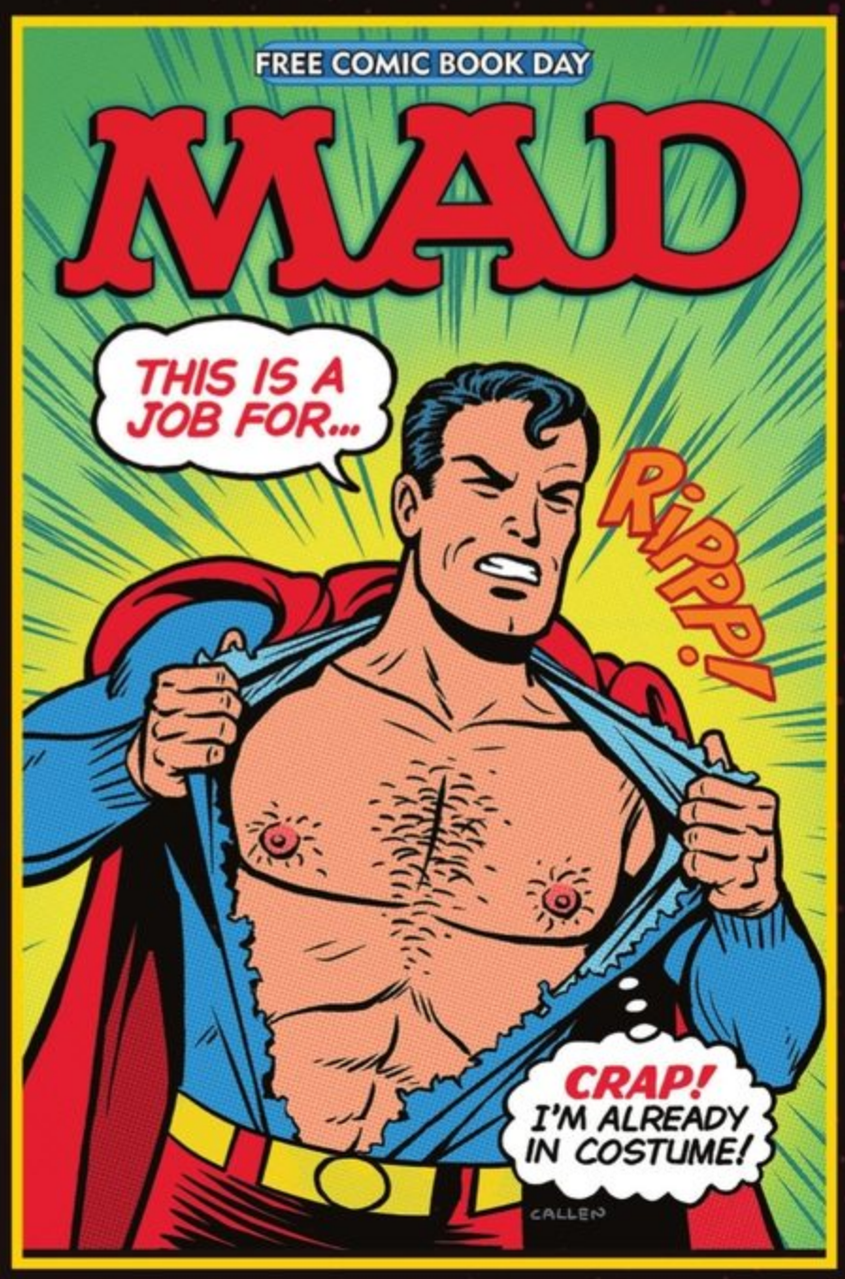

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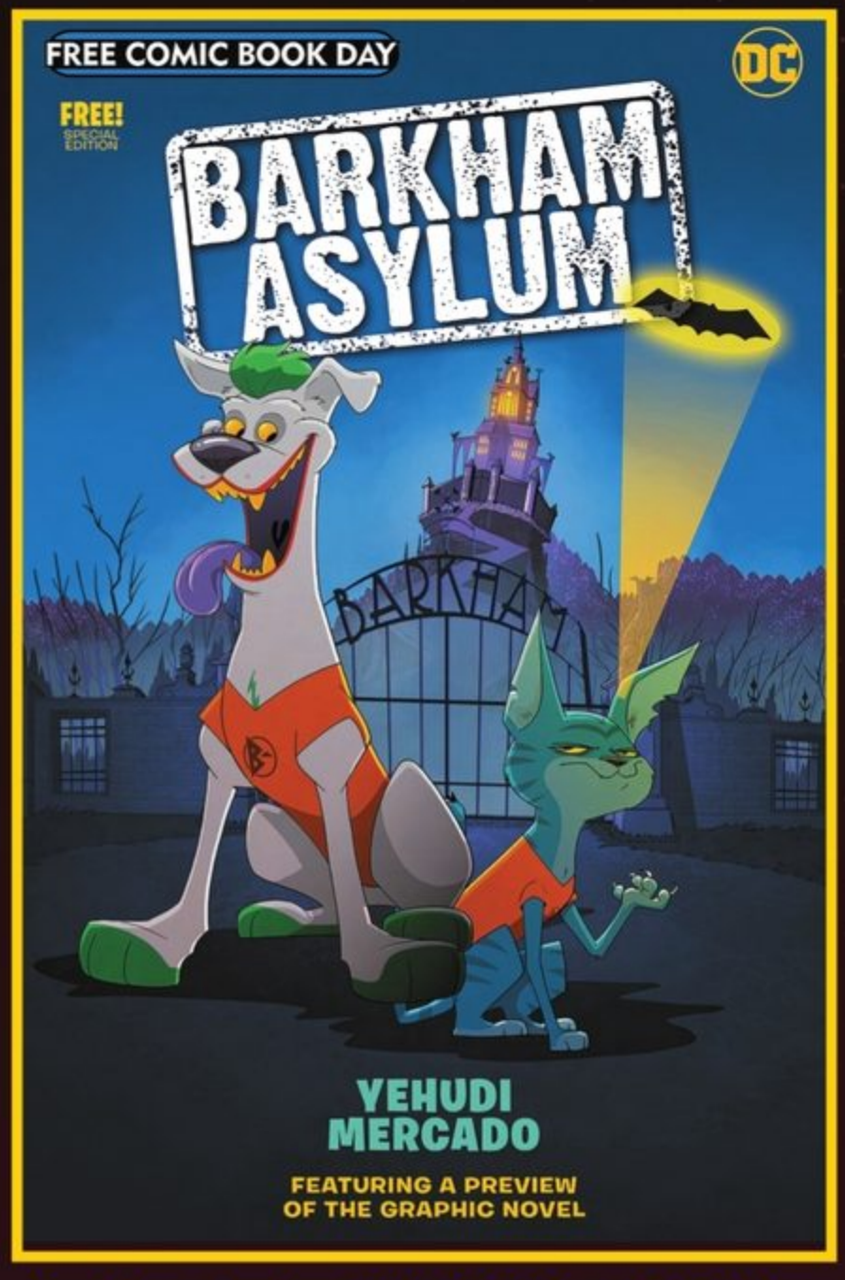

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AAAAAAND WELCOME BACK TO **PowerPod Live!**, STREAMING DAILY FROM CENTRAL CITY CITY CENTER!

I'M YOUR HOST, **JIMMY SCORCH**-- PUTTIN' THE **TAN** IN **SUPER STAN!**-- AND BOY, OH **BOY** DO WE HAVE A GUEST FOR **YOU!**

SHE'S WON EVERY AWARD THERE IS, BRINGING **HERO FANS** THE NEWS WE NEED! REPORTER, WRITER, CAPE CONFIDANTE-- IIIIT'S--

--CORN BELT LOIS LANE--

--Hahaha, oh, you-- IT'S **IRIS WEST!**

PLEASURE TO BE HERE, JIM. AND KIDDING ASIDE, LOIS IS GREAT. IT TAKES **GUTS** TO REPEATEDLY FALL OFF BUILDINGS AND CALL IT A **SCOOP.**

--Hahaha, oh, **YOU**--

SO, IRIS... YOU'VE WRITTEN A TON ABOUT THE ROLE OF **HEROES** IN WESTERN CULTURE. WHAT'S THE PICTURE **TODAY?**

Oof. CAN I SAY "**ROCK BOTTOM**" ON AIR? Guess not.

LISTEN, WHAT WE'RE SEEING OUT THERE IS **MORAL CYNICISM** BEING EXPLOITED FOR POLITICAL GAIN.

YOU'RE REFERRING TO **AMANDA WALLER** AND HER CAMPAIGN TO BAN SUPER-HEROES? THAT LADY SURE HATES CAPES.

Uh-huh. Like... YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THESE **DIMENSIONAL DISASTERS** ALL OVER THE WORLD, RIGHT? SCIENTISTS ARE STUMPED, THE U.N. CAN'T AGREE ON A RESPONSE...

...BUT WHO'S **OUT THERE,** RIGHT NOW, PICKING UP THE SLACK?

ISSUE EIGHT:
"PIONEERS"

WRITTEN BY
SIMON SPURRIER
ART BY
RAMÓN PÉREZ & VASCO GEORGIEV
COLORS BY
SOFIE DODGSON & MATT HERMS
LETTERED BY
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

COVER BY
RAMÓN PÉREZ
VARIANT COVERS BY
LEIRIX,
MATT TAYLOR,
RAMÓN PÉREZ

EDITOR
CHRIS ROSA
GROUP EDITOR
PAUL KAMINSKI

EXCELLENT POINT, IRIS. AND-- OH **MAN!**-- HAVE YOU **SEEN** THE HIGH-SPEED SNAPS? Like, **CLASSIC** BLUR-OF-AWESOMENESS!

AND IT'S NOT JUST THE FIRESTORM IN **NEPAL,** IS IT? EGYPT, BUENOS AIRES-- FLASH IS DEALING WITH **MULTIPLE EMERGENCIES,** ALL AT ONCE!

EXACTLY. BUT I BET IF YOU ASKED **WALLER** SHE'D FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE HE **CAN'T** SAVE, OR-- THE **COST** OF THE CLEANUP...OR-- KNOWING HER?

SHE'D FIND A WAY TO CLAIM THESE DISASTERS ARE ALL FLASH'S FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

FOLKS THESE DAYS WOULD SOONER ***LAY BLAME*** THAN ***RESPECT*** A ***VIRTUOUS EFFORT.***

KNOW WHAT ***I*** SAY, JIM?

KEEP HEROING, HEROES.

FROM TIME TO TIME WE NEED YOU IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS-- BUT WE **ALWAYS** NEED YOU IN OUR HEARTS.

AMEN, SISTER.

OKAY, SO-- and forgive me lowerin' the intellectual tone-- ISN'T IT **GREAT** TO SEE THAT OLD **MASK** AGAIN?

FANS ARE DYIN' TO KNOW, IRIS-- IS THE OLDER FLASH BACK OFF THE BENCH FOR GOOD...?

I mean... YOU'RE ONLY AS **OLD** AS THE PERSON YOU **FEEL**, JIM...

Hahaha, oh, you! AND WHAT ABOUT THAT **SIDEKICK ACTION!** WHO'S **THIS** PLUCKY PUP?

Uh-- I THINK THAT'S **CIRCUIT BREAKER.** REAL **GLAM,** RIGHT?

AWESOME CODE NAME! MAN, I WISH WE COULD HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING. I BET IT'S **SUPER** COMPELLING.

AAAAAH!

AAAAH!

AAAA!

Get it together-- **get it** together--

HOW THE HELL DO I DO **THAT?!** YOU KIDNAPPED ME DURING ACT TWO OF **HAIR** AND DROPPED ME INTO **DANTE'S INFERNO!**

AND-- **RRRR!** MY **POWERS** ARE COMPLETELY **BORKED!**

Uh. What?

NO, STILL NO SIGN OF **WALLY.** JUST-- FOCUS ON THE DINOSAURS, JESSE, OKAY?

S-SORRY-- I'M BOUNCING BETWEEN LOCATIONS AT CLOSE TO LIGHT SPEED. IT'S... **A LOT.**

LISTEN, IT'S **JULES**-- RIGHT? **STILL FORCE** USER? YOU CAN SORTA... **DRAIN KINETIC ENERGY?**

WH-WHEN MY POWERS ARE **WORKING,** YEAH. RIGHT NOW IT'S FIFTY-FIFTY I TURN INTANGIBLE, OR-- OR BREAK GLASSES WHEN I TALK...

Frequency changes? Hm.

LOOK-- **MY** GUESS? THIS IS A LOCALIZED **HYPERTIME** BUBBLE. EVERYTHING'S VIBRATING TOO FAST, HENCE THE **FRICTION FIRESTORM.** WE NEED TO **SLOW** IT DOWN.

IF IT'S LIKE THE **OTHER** DISASTERS WE'VE BEEN SEEING-- IT'S TEMPORARY. WE JUST HAVE TO STICK IT OUT AND IT'LL FADE.

NO, AVERY-- OBVIOUSLY I DIDN'T MEAN TO BUMP INTO YOU!

SO... WHO'S **WALLY?** I-IS HE THE ONE WITH THE WILD KIDS? I MET THEM DURING THAT THING WITH THE **HUMAN WASPS** AND *ohmygod this is my life now--*

Heh! I GOTTA KEEP MOVING, KID. YOU'RE DOING GREAT. AND-- DON'T WORRY ABOUT WALLY'S **FAMILY--**

"--THEY'RE NOT PART OF THIS."

NOK NOK

UNCLE HARTLEY? WHAT'S--

JAI! IS WALLY HERE?! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

uh, NO. HE'S-- HE'S ACTUALLY NOT BEEN AROUND FOR A FEW DAYS. TITANS DUTIES, I GUESS?

BUT LISTEN, MOM'S ASLEEP UPSTAIRS-- SHE'S BEEN KINDA EXHAUSTED LATELY, SO LET'S TRY AND KEEP IT D--

IT'S A CATASTROPHE, JAI! A CATASTROPHE!

"AMANDA WALLER'S RAIDED TERRIFICTECH!"

uh. THAT SOUNDS... bad?

HER GOONS HAD A **WARRANT.** "JUST A ROUTINE CHECK," blah blah. PURE **COINCIDENCE** THEY CAME WHILE **MR. T** WAS OUT ON **JUSTICE SOCIETY** BUSINESS, RIGHT? My **ass.**

"HE MADE HIS PRESENCE **KNOWN,** OF COURSE--"

MADAM DIRECTOR, YOU ARE VIOLATING THE BOUNDS OF YOUR REMIT. I WILL ASK YOU ONCE, **POLITELY,** TO WITHDRAW YOUR THUGS.

Pft. WE'LL **SEE** WHO'S VIOLATING **WHAT,** HOLT. Activate the **scramblers.***

*WALLER RAIDING ANOTHER HOME OF HEROES? SEE WHAT HER MOVES ARE LEADING TO IN **ABSOLUTE POWER: FREE COMIC BOOK DAY SPECIAL EDITION #1!**
--CHRIS 'ABSOLUTE POWERLESSNESS' ROSA

EVIDENCE OF **MULTIPLE UNLICENSED** EXPERIMENTS, MA'AM. **THIS THING** WOULD APPEAR TO BE SOME SORT OF... **EXTRADIMENSIONAL ARTIFACT.**

TZZK

AND THE **DATA HARVEST?** YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO SEE THIS, MA'AM.

"THE **DATA.** WE WERE STILL **ANALYZING--** HOPING OUR CONCLUSIONS WERE **WRONG...**

...BUT SHE'LL **TAKE** IT AND SHE'LL **TWIST** IT AND... god.

WE NEED TO TELL **WALLY.** THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET **REAL BAD** FOR SPEEDSTERS.

HEY. **YOU.**

DID **YOU** KNOW ABOUT THIS?

uh.

Pilgrim...?

EARTH TO INSPECTOR PILGRIM-- YOU OKAY?

Hm? Oh, S-SORRY. I-IT JUST... IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I RUN THROUGH IT. I ALWAYS FORGET HOW IT FEELS.

Meeting him for the first time.

Okaaaaaaaay. ANYBODY WANNA SHARE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WHO'S THE CREEPY SAMURAI CHEF?

INSPECTOR PILGRIM'S BEEN HELPING ME PRACTICE **ENERGY SHAPING,** AND--

--AND WE LOST TRACK OF TIME. HERE, **SIDDOWN.** LET'S DO COFFEE.

Hm. There used to be a halfway-decent French press in here...

LISTEN, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THIS **WALLER** THING.

I MEAN, **OKAY, YES,** IT DOES FEED DIRECTLY INTO HER WHOLE **ANTI-HEROIC TAKEDOWN** LOOMING ON THE HORIZON, FAIR ENOUGH--

--BUT BASED ON THE CURRENT TIMELINE, THE UNIVERSE IS GONNA **CATASTROPHICALLY IMPLODE** BEFORE THAT ANYWAY, SO-- *ya know--*

--WORRY ABOUT WHAT YOU **CAN** CONTROL, AM I RIGHT?

Whuh.

IT'S COOL, I'M **ON** IT. I'VE GOT SOME **GUYS** DEPLOYED IIN THE FIELD TO, *uh--* **HELP--** BARRY AND THE REST.

AND WHEN WALLY SHOWS UP, I'M GONNA BE RIGHT THERE TOO. TO **HELP.**

I HAVE **NO IDEA** WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.

Hm. YOU'LL GET USED TO THAT.

OH! HERE IT IS!

Ooh-- WHO WANTS CHOCOLATE SPRINKLES?!

JIM, I'M GETTING TEXTS ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPENING AT **TERRIFICTECH.** I HATE TO CUT THIS SHORT, BUT I THINK I'D BETTER HEAD OVER TH--

NEVER MIND THAT, IRIS! A GUY ON FabGab JUST LINKED TO A **WEBCAM** AT THE **LUXOR** SITE! CHECK IT OUT!

I MEAN-- Oh. My. God. DINOSAURS! PALEOLITHIC MEGAFAUNA! SOME SORT OF... PRIMORDIAL ELEMENTAL SPACE KITTEN! WE GOT A FULL-BLOWN TIMETANGLE HERE!

WHO SAYS SUPERHEROES ARE GETTING TOO HIGHBROW, huh?!

AND HOW ABOUT THOSE TEAM-UP COLORS?! WE GOT FLASH! KID FLASH! FLASH OF CHINA! JESSE QUICK! WHAT A CREW!

NOW, LISTENERS, BEAR IN MIND WE NEVER REALLY SEE SPEEDSTERS WITHOUT HIGH-SPEED CAMERAS, BUT-- STILL--

--JUST LOOK AT THOSE LIGHT TRAILS! ALL WORKING TOGETHER! POETRY IN MOTION!

AAARGH!

D-DID-- DID YOU DO THAT ON PURPOSE?!

WATCH OUT, JESSE!

YOU WATCH OUT!

N-NOT SURE I CAN. BEEN KINDA GLITCHY ALL MORNING. I CAN BARELY BALANCE.

SAME. I KEEP SOLIDIFYING MY AURA WITHOUT MEANING TO!

WH-WHO THE HELL ARE THESE PARA-MILITARY GUYS?!

Uh. WHAT?

N-never mind.

WHAT'S CAUSING ALL THIS? TIME SLIPS, DIMENSION TEARS! WE'VE HAD A DOZEN IN THE PAST WEEK! THEY'RE GETTING WORSE!

HOLT THINKS THE SPEED FORCE IS HAVING SOME SORT OF, I dunno, SEIZURE...

Look, LET'S JUST FOCUS ON SAVING LIVES, OKAY? KEEP THE PLATES SPINNING, TAKE IT AS IT COMES, AND--

HOLY £$%&! IS THAT A GIANT SPIDER?

?

Barry?

S-sorry. THREE PLACES AT ONCE.

--JULES, ***SLOW THEM DOWN!*** JUST TRY!

I-I GUESS I FORGOT HOW ***STRETCHED THIN*** YOU GET, BEING THE FLASH.

HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW WALLY DOES IT. ALL THIS ***AND*** A FAMILY TO BOOT.

SLOW DOWN, KID-- YOU'RE SAYING YOU NEED TO-- BUT HE'S-- ***HONEY,*** HE'S KINDA ***BUSY.*** NOW'S NOT THE BEST TIME--

JESSE?

IT'S IREY-- WALLY'S ***DAUGHTER.***

DUCK.

IREY?! DID YOU ***FIND*** HIM?! I STILL CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS ***WITH*** HIM.

IS HE ***HOME?***

Uh. ***WHO?*** YOU MEAN ***DAD?***

NO, HE'S-- HE'S STILL OFF WITH THE-- THE ***TITANS,*** I ASSUME? I CAN'T TRACE ***HIM*** AT ALL.

BUT LOOK, UNCLE BARRY, IT'S ***YOU*** I'M WORRIED ABOUT. I'VE BEEN TRACKING YOU ALL DAY.

*YOU CAN **DO** THAT?*

Oh, **SURE.** THERE ARE THESE WEIRD SPEED FORCE SIGNATURES AROUND YOU. THEY'RE KINDA... **WRONG.**

YOU KEEP TAKING THE SAME **PATHS** BETWEEN LOCATIONS. MAKES YOU PRETTY EASY TO **AMBUSH.**

Ambush? *Nah. Kid, these are* ***natural*** *disasters-- no* ***villains*** *today. Besides, nobody ever caught me except your pa.*

I'M GONNA **FIND HIM,** OKAY, IREY? SOON AS WE GET A SPARE MILLISECOND. YOU LET ME KNOW IF HE SHOWS **UP.**

Hhf. We ***need*** *him.*

C'mon, *old man. No slacking. Do it for* ***them.***

Do it for the ***world.***

Do it for ***her.***

OKAY, IRIS-- WHADDAYA SAY WE HIT THE **PHONE LINES?** WE GOT AN EAGER BEAVER ON **LINE ONE.**

HEY, JIM! **MANDY** HERE! LONGTIME LISTENER, FIRST-TIME CALLER!

HEY, MANDY! YOU BEEN FOLLOWING ALL THESE **SCIENCE CALAMITIES?** WE GOT NEW FOOTAGE HERE-- SOME SORTA **DIMENSION LEAK** IN BUENOS AIRES...

WHAT'S YOUR **HOT TAKE,** MANDY?

Oh dear god--

Well, I'LL **TELL YA,** JIM. YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK OF, WHEN I SEE THESE HEROES DOIN' THEIR THING?

I THINK OF **PIONEERS** IN THE **OLD WEST**, STRIDING TALL, PROSPECTING FOR **OIL** IN WILD PLACES.

Uh... Okay...? THAT'S--

AND WHEN THEY **FIND** IT-- WHEN THEY **CRACK THE EARTH** AND SPILL THAT **BLACK GOLD**-- THEY SAY IT'S FOR THE **COMMON GOOD.**

THAT **OIL**, THEY SAY, IT'S GONNA **LIGHT UP CITIES!** IT'S GONNA DRIVE **CARS** AND **TRAINS** AND **PROGRESS!**

WH-WHO THE HELL **ARE** YOU GUYS?!

CHRONON HEMORRHAGE! DEPLOY A **WIDOW** TO STITCH THE RIFT!

Uh, **MANDY**, I DON'T THINK I'M **FOLLOWING** THIS METAPHOR, SO--

AND IT **WORKS**, JIM! THOSE **BRAVE MEN**, LOOTING WHAT NATURE HID... LIFTING US ALL... **FUELING** THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVILIZATION! Beautiful.

THEN TWO HUNDRED YEARS LATER, THANKS TO FOSSIL FUELS, THE SKY'S FULL OF SMOG, THE CLIMATE'S GONE **INSANE**, AND KIDS ARE DYING OF **LUNG CANCER.**

AND **WHY?**

BECAUSE THOSE VAINGLORIOUS COWBOYS DID NOT STOP TO CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS.

THAT'S FLASH! PRIME TARGET 2! CRIMINAL CONDUIT!

BAG HIM, FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSE!

THESE PIONEERS... THESE ALL-AMERICAN HEROES. NOT ONE OF THEM HAS EVER STOPPED AND WONDERED: WHAT PRICE POWER? AND WHO PAYS?

PACIFY HIM! AT ANY COST!

uh, MANDY-- THIS IS IRIS WEST. HAVE WE MET? I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE.

WH-WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?

AAARGH!

Oh, I BET YOU DO...

W-WE GOT EXOTIC DEEP CHANGE OUT HERE! THE WIDOW'S FINISHED HEALING THE RIFT-- WITHDRAW! EVAC!

...I BET YOU GET REAL GOOD AT RECOGNIZING VOICES WHEN YOU'RE INTIMATE WITH FOLKS IN MASKS...

WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING, M--

THMP THMP

Uhhh-- SORRY, FOLKS-- LITTLE TECHNICAL HITCH HERE-- BEAR WITH US--

--Who the hell is hammering on the door? We're on AIR--!

"EXOTIC DEEP CHANGE"...?

WHAT JUST HAPPENED? WHO'S THERE? WHO SAVED ME?

HEH HEH HEHHHH--

"SAVED" MIGHT BE TOO STRONG A WORD, BARRY! WE GOT FIRST DIBS ON WHUPPIN' YOUR ASS, THAT'S ALL!

AYE. THE ARC ANGLES CANNAE HAVE THEM AMATEURS PUTTING YE ON ICE-- THEY GOT PLANS!

WHERE'S THE REAL FLASH, eh? WE CANNAE FINISH THIS WITHOUT HIM!

HE WILL NOT TELL YOU. THESE BRAGGART HEROES, THEIR PRIDE WILL SUFFER ANY AGONY BEFORE ADMITTING TO FRAILTY... IT IS IRRELEVANT.

HE DOES NOT KNOW THE LOCATION OF WALLY WEST.

DOESN'T MATTER. WE HAVE TIME.

THE BOSSES NEED SOMEWHERE TO KEEP THEIR LITTLE WEAPON SAFE UNTIL WALLY POPS BACK UP... AND IT CLEARLY ENJOYED ITS LAST JAUNT IN BARRY'S BRAIN...

LET'S PUT IT BACK, SHALL WE?

N-NO. NO, I-- I REMEMBER THAT THING...

...TH-THE HEADACHES... THE VOICE IN MY HEART... G-GET IT AWAY-- GET IT OUT!

GET IT OOAAA

AMANDA WALLER.

"Mandy." Damn. I KNEW I RECOGNIZED THAT VOICE.

GO HOME, THE PAIR OF YOU. YOU'RE NOT UNDER ARREST-- YET. ONLY **SUSPICION.**

OF **WHAT?!**

DISTRIBUTION OF **TERRORIST PROPAGANDA.**

"TER--"? YOU'RE **CRAZY!** WE'RE JUST **HERO FANS!** WHERE'S THE HARM?

HARM?

HARM?!

SWITCH ON THE **NEWS!** COUNT THE **DEAD-BY-COLLATERAL!** LIST THE **HOMES WRECKED! LAWS FLOUTED! LIVES SHATTERED!**

TRY TO **GUESS** HOW MANY GENOCIDAL MANIACS WOULD NEVER HAVE STRAPPED ON THEIR **FETISH GEAR** IF **CULTURE** HADN'T DEVOLVED INTO **"GOODIES VERSUS BADDIES."**

YOUR **HEROES** ARE MAKING **FISTICUFFS** THE **ENTIRE MORAL SUBTEXT** OF CIVILIZATION.

"Where's the harm?" **GET HIM OUTTA HERE!**

Pathetic. YOUR ARGUMENTS ARE AS **BLINKERED** AS THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN.

Huh. HERE WE GO. A TONGUE-LASHING FROM **CORN BELT LOIS LANE.**

I ALREADY **DID** THAT JOKE, SWEETHEART.

WHAT ABOUT *ASPIRATION?* Huh? WHAT ABOUT LEADING BY EXAMPLE?

WHAT ABOUT THE LIVES THAT GOT ENRICHED OR SAVED WHEN SOMEONE FELT INSPIRED TO STAND FOR WHAT'S RIGHT?

And *hey.* WHAT ABOUT *FUN?*

YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO, ALL YOUR £$%€ ABOUT *HEROES* COMES DOWN TO ONE THING--

YOU CAN'T *CONTROL* THEM. AND IT MAKES YOU MAD.

WE'LL GET HER *OUTSIDE,* MA'AM--

NO. SHE *STAYS.* I WANT HER TO HEAR THIS.

LISTENERS. THIS IS AMANDA WALLER. I APOLOGIZE FOR GATE-CRASHING, BUT I BELIEVE IN STRAIGHT TALK.

I'M HERE TODAY TO MAKE AN *ANNOUNCEMENT.*

YOU *FANS*-- YOU OF *ALL* PEOPLE-- DESERVE THE *TRUTH.*

THIS AFTERNOON, MY TEAM CONDUCTED A ROUTINE *INSPECTION* AT THE HQ OF A WELL-KNOWN TECH NGO, WITH A VAST STORE OF *DATA* ON YOUR PRECIOUS *HEROES.*

IN PARTICULAR THE *FLASH* AND ASSOCIATED SPEEDSTERS.

YOU'VE ALL *SEEN* THE FOOTAGE. THE *CALAMITIES* AFFLICTING THE WORLD. TIME-QUAKES. DIMENSIONAL TEARS.

THE DATA CLEARLY SHOWS *REALITY ITSELF* IS IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY.

AND I'M AFRAID THE *CAUSE* IS ALSO CLEAR.

SPEEDSTERS.

SIMPLY **USING** THEIR POWERS IS ERODING THE LAWS OF PHYSICS.

IF ALLOWED TO **CONTINUE**, THIS **WILL** RESULT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL LIFE.

I-I-IRIS **CALLED** IT! SHE **SAID** YOU'D TRY TO BLAME THEE

AARGH!!

IT IS THEREFORE INCUMBENT UPON THOSE OF US WHO PLACE **DUTY** AND **SAFETY** ABOVE-- hah--**FUN**--

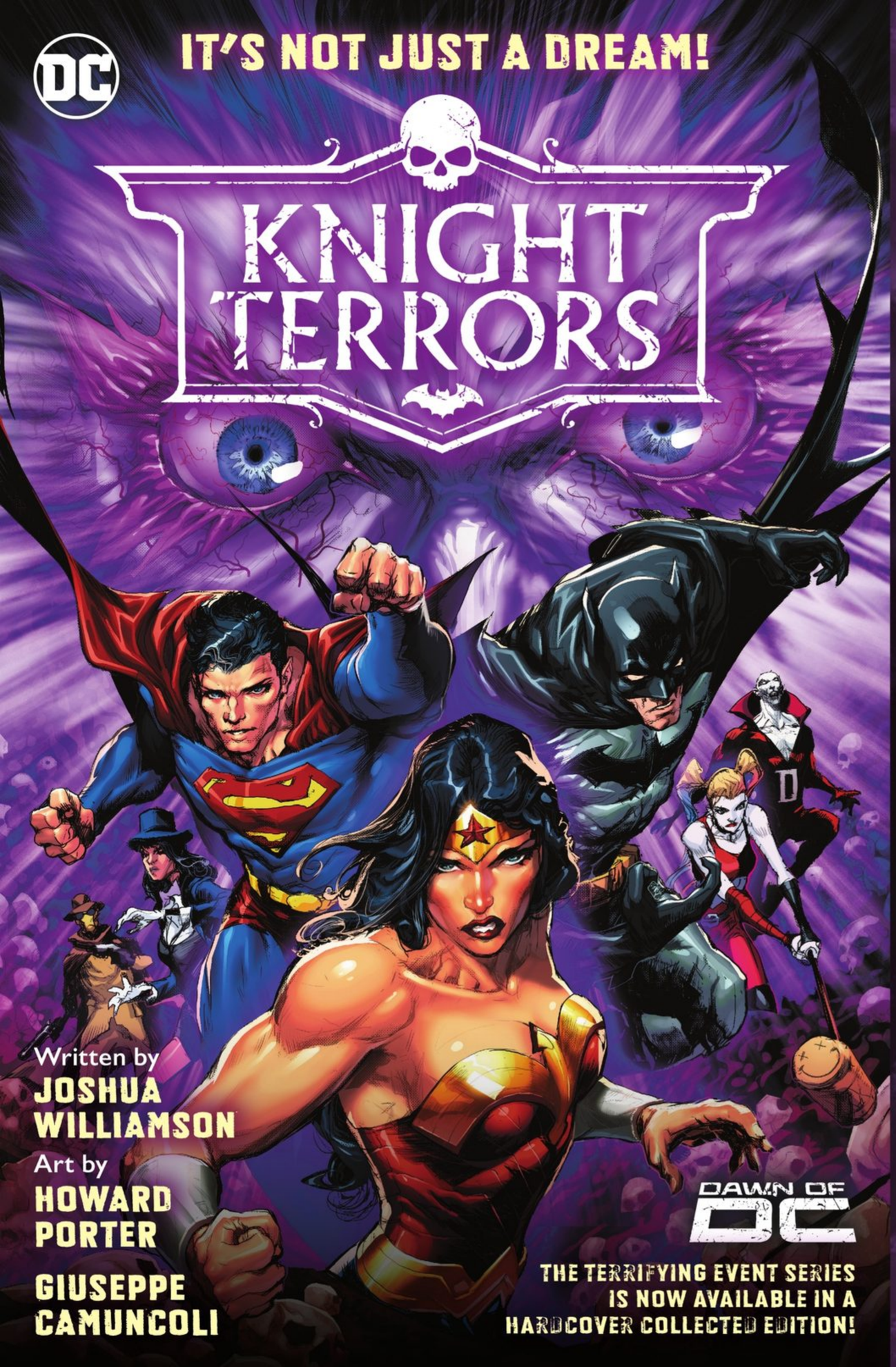
--TO **CHECK** THIS UNSANCTIONED, DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR.

W...Wally... Wally, we **need** you...

AS OF TODAY, ALL SPEEDSTERS ARE COMMANDED TO **STOP**-- OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

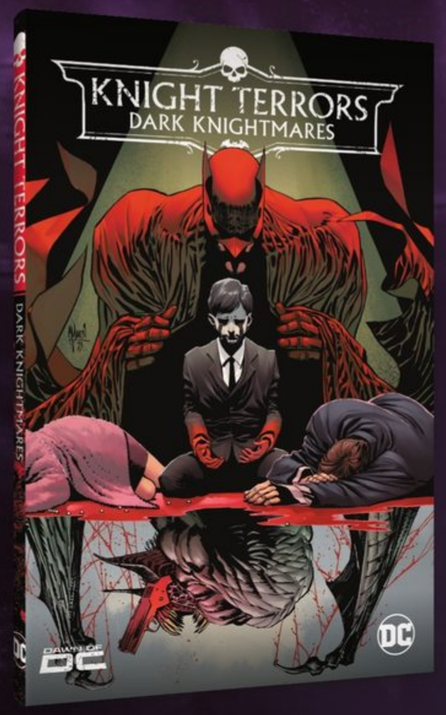
"Where **are** you...?"

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE FLASH 2024 ANNUAL...

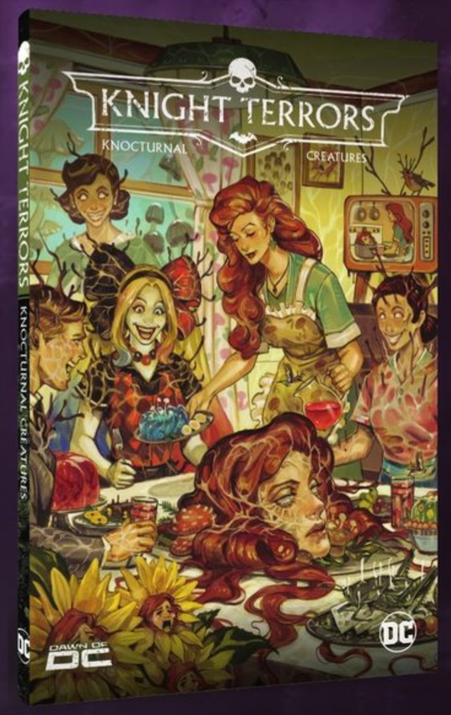


WITNESS THE DC UNIVERSE DESCEND INTO THE NIGHTMARE REALM IN THESE MUST-HAVE COMPANION COLLECTIONS!

KNIGHT TERRORS: DARK KNIGHTMARES



KNIGHT TERRORS: KNOCTURNAL CREATURES



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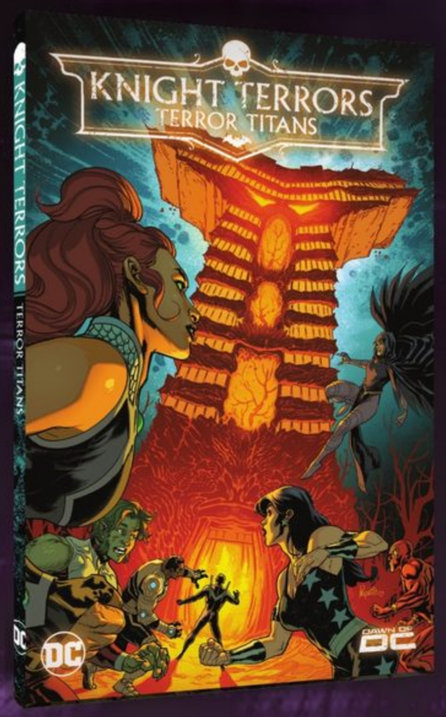

KNIGHT TERRORS: KNIGHTMARE LEAGUE

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

NIGHTWING #114

WITH ARTIST

BRUNO REDONDO

Tom Taylor and Bruno Redondo's Eisner Award-winning *Nightwing* run reaches its conclusion this May with the five-part story "Fallen Grayson." Forty-plus issues all culminate in an action-packed and heartbreaking conclusion, beginning in *Nightwing* #114. DC Nation sat down with Bruno Redondo to discuss illustrating the final arc of his character-defining epic.

Your and Tom's *Nightwing* run has been one of DC's most celebrated comic book runs ever. What has it been like coming back to conclude the story you and Tom have been telling?

Since we started *Nightwing*, Tom and I always talked about accomplishing a full run that fans could enjoy from start to finish. It needed to cover an important part of Dick's life. Completing our Nightwing stage is something I have been looking forward to, but also something that makes me sad.

Why do you think DC fans have connected specifically to your and Tom's run in such a strong way?

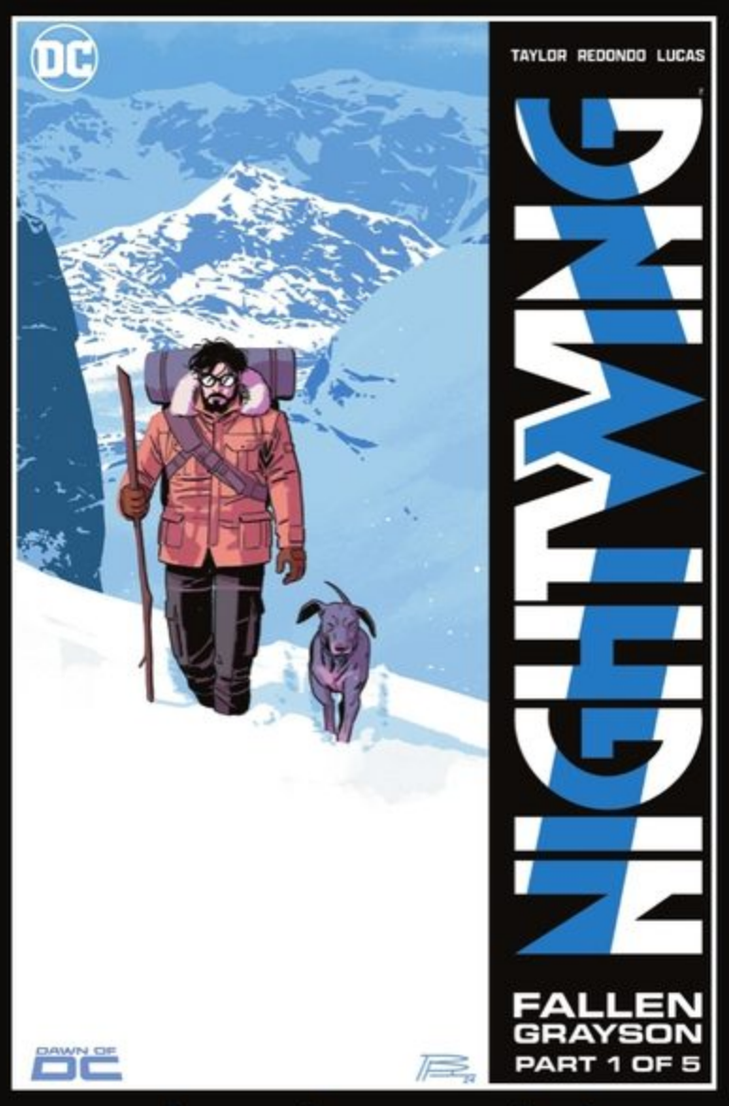
Something Tom and I were looking to build is a classic superhero-style comic with a positive tone but not lacking troubles to go through. We started working on *Nightwing* in 2020. Both that year and 2021 were hard times for everyone due to the pandemic, so we tried to tell a story not exactly looking apart from pain but going through it. Many readers' feedback was about how much this tone helped them in bad times, which is kind of the most beautiful thing that could happen for an artist.

In terms of art and storytelling, you and Tom are no strangers to pushing boundaries. What did you want to bring to the art in "Fallen Grayson" that fans hadn't seen before?

Since we started *Nightwing* we've worked hard to portray classic Nightwing, classic Blüdhaven, and his relationships (while adding some new elements like Haley or Heartless). But now it's time to add some more elements and visuals to Dick's bible, starting with bearded Nightwing, and there's more to come!

What was it like to see the incredible fan reaction when the *Nightwing* #114 cover, featuring a bearded Dick Grayson, was released?

Bearded Nightwing is something I'd wanted to try since we started. I was really happy to see such a positive reaction to it.



Main cover by Bruno Redondo

DON'T MISS "FALLEN GRAYSON" BEGINNING IN *NIGHTWING* #114 THIS MAY!

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